AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a perovskite-type composite oxide, which comprises the steps of:

preparing a precursor of the perovskite-type composite oxide by mixing ~~at least~~ an organometal ~~salts of elementary components constituting the perovskite-type composite oxide, including organometal salts of at least one noble metal~~, salt of a noble metal with another elementary component constituting the perovskite-type composite oxide, and

heat-treating the precursor of the perovskite-type composite oxide;

wherein the perovskite-type composite oxide is a perovskite-type composite oxide represented by the following general formula (1):

$ABMO_3$ (1)

wherein A represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of rare-earth elements, alkaline earth metals, and Ag; B represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al and transition metals excluding platinum group elements and rare-earth elements; and M represents one or more platinum group elements.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a perovskite-type composite oxide according to claim 1 [[2]], wherein the other elementary components are prepared as alkoxides of the respective elements.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a perovskite-type composite oxide according to claim 1 [[2]], wherein the other elementary components are prepared as a coprecipitate of salts of the respective elements or a citrate complex of the respective elements.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a perovskite-type composite oxide according to claim 1 [[2]], wherein the part of the elementary components is one or more noble metals.

6. (Original) The method for producing a perovskite-type composite oxide according to claim 1, wherein the organometal salts of the elementary components are organic carboxylic acid salts of the elementary components and/or a metal complex of the elementary components including at least one selected from the group consisting of β-diketone compounds, β-ketoester compounds and β-dicarboxylic ester compounds.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[7]], wherein the perovskite-type composite oxide is a perovskite-type composite oxide represented by the following general formula (2):

$A_{1-x}A'_xB_{1-y}B'_yO_3$ (2)

wherein A represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of Y, La and Nd; A' represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ce, Pr, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, and Ag; B represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu and Al; and B' represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ru, Rh, Pd, Ir, and Pt;

wherein x represents an atomic ratio satisfying the relation $0 \leq x \leq 0.5$ and y represents an atomic ratio satisfying the relation: $0 < y \leq 0.5$.

9.-13. (Canceled)